

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045310
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:OSG
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
D/HA:JWILSON

-----020150 102893 /67

P R 012315Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SREF

SUBJECT: ASSYRIANS IN LEBANON

1. JOHN YONAN, SPECIAL AMBASSADOR OF THE ASSYRIAN UNIVER-
SAL ALLIANCE, DESCRIBED TO NEA/ARN AND D/HA SOME OF THE
RESULTS OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO LEBANON. HE SAID HE HAD
SECURED STRONG MARONITE SUPPORT FOR A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH
ASSYRIANS NOW IN GREECE (SOME 1,000) AND FROM NORTHERN
IRAQ MIGHT BE RESETTLED IN LEBANON, TO ENHANCE AND
STRENGTHEN THE CHRISTIAN COMPOSITION OF THAT SOCIETY.
MARONITE LEADERS CHAMOUN, GEMAYEL AND OTHERS FROM THE KFOUR
FRONT INDICATED THAT THE MARONITE COMMUNITY COULD HELP
PROVIDE LAND AND OTHER INCENTIVES FOR ASSYRIAN RESETTLEMENT.
NOT SURPRISINGLY THEY DISCOURAGED YONAN FROM APPROACHING
SARKIS.

2. YONAN IS INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A PROGRAM TO SETTLE
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AS MANY AS 150,000 ASSYRIANS, ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FROM
NORTHERN IRAQ, OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS. HE IS IN
WASHINGTON AT PRESENT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF USG
FINANCING. WE HAVE BEEN BASICALLY NON-COMMITTAL, WHILE
POINTING OUT SOME REPEAT SOME OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS
AND COMPLICATIONS.

3. YONAN SAID THAT DANY CHAMOUN WOULD BE COMING TO THE U.S. TO MEET WITH ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY LEADERS IN WEEK OF MARCH 21. IF DANY SEEKS APPOINTMENTS WITH DEPARTMENT, WE WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO RECEIVE HIM INITIALLY AT THE DRAPER OR DAY LEVEL IN NEA AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS. DANY WILL PROBABLY HAVE SUBJECTS OTHER THAN ASSYRIANS ON HIS MIND.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, ASSYRIANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE045310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:OSG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-1193
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703104/aaaadntc.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a05d88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2947320
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSYRIANS IN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, LE
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a05d88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009